

The Meewasin Trail Guide

Trail Map and Site Information

Meewasin 



Your Meewasin. For Everyone. Forever.

Your Meewasin is a special place that is all your own. Your Meewasin Valley is an opportunity to connect with those you care about and with nature. If you believe this precious gift should be cared for and enhanced now and for years to come, we invite you to step into one of the following:

Meewasin Green Circle

An annual gift of \$2000 each year for 5 years, paid once a year or monthly.

Meewasin 500 Club

An annual gift of \$500 each year for 5 years, paid once a year or monthly.

Honour **a special person** or **event in your life** with gifts to the

Support the Meewasin Valley - meewasin.com/map



About Meewasin

Meewasin Valley! Choose from Trees, Benches, Bricks and so much more.

To learn more.... email: donations@meewasin.com,
telephone: 306-665-6887, or **online:** at meewasin.com/donate/donor-programs.



Prefer to give online? Make a gift today to support conservation, trails and/or education at meewasin.com/map/donate.

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Meewasin thanks the SRRA for its sponsorship of this trail guide and their stewardship and promotion of the Meewasin Valley. Learn more at www.saskatoonroadrunners.ca

The Saskatoon Road Runners

Association (SRRA) is a non-profit organization, which began in the mid-1970's, at the height of the nation-wide fitness awareness program: "ParticipACTION". The SRRA has a proud history of organizing first-rate events, including one of the longest running marathons in Canada: the



Saskatchewan Marathon. The organization is committed to providing opportunities for its members, and for the running community, to develop physically and mentally by providing access to training and competition for runners of all ages and abilities. They believe that this will improve personal health and well-being through fitness and social interaction. As an organization, they are also committed to our community. SRRRA has contributed more than \$260,000 to Meewasin for multiple projects including a drinking fountain and seating node at the Diefenbaker Centre along the Meewasin Trail.

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Meewasin

South Saskatchewan River (Stephen Kent)

Welcome to the Meewasin Valley.

The Meewasin Valley is an oasis of exceptional beauty in the midst of the Saskatchewan prairies. Stretching nearly eighty kilometers along the river, from the south end of the Rural Municipality of Corman Park (RM) to the north end of the RM, the Meewasin Valley follows the winding curve of the South Saskatchewan River as it passes through the RM and the City of Saskatoon.

“Meewasin” is the Cree word for beautiful.

Perhaps no other word so aptly describes this special piece of the South Saskatchewan River valley. Within its boundaries lie untouched wilderness, exciting culture, and inviting trails. Whether you enjoy an outdoor hike, learning about the region's heritage or simply wish to stop and smell the wildflowers, the Meewasin Valley is for you.

The Meewasin Valley Authority created in 1979 by an Act of the Government of Saskatchewan is a conservation agency dedicated to conserving the cultural and natural resources of the South Saskatchewan River valley. The organization is empowered by the Meewasin Valley Authority Act to coordinate or control the use of development, conservation, maintenance, and improvement of land within its jurisdiction. This process, known as development review, is guided by a statutory committee of professional planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, geotechnical engineers, and/or geoscientists.

The three participating landowners (the City of Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Saskatchewan) chose to manage the Meewasin Valley based on the concept that working together through a single agency – Meewasin – can accomplish more collectively than individually. Meewasin works closely with the participating parties, among others, to govern this unique parcel of land.



Kiwanis Park (Stephen Kent)

Health, Balance and Fit

Since its inception, Meewasin has provided leadership for the Meewasin Valley in conservation, development and education.

Conserve

One of Meewasin's primary goals is to help maintain a vibrant and healthy river valley. Meewasin follows a comprehensive plan to:

- Act as a conservation agency
- Initiate a land stewardship program
- Maintain resource management of the river valley
- Restore damaged areas of the valley
- Green the valley (afforestation)
- Enhance, restore and/or create wildlife habitat areas
- Conserve remaining natural areas in the valley
- Protect the natural and heritage resources
- Encourage river stewardship

Meewasin promotes and maintains biodiversity and ecological integrity within the valley with a program that includes conservation grazing, prescribed burns, seeding, mowing, planting, and eradication of invasive species (i.e. noxious weeds).

Develop

All planning, design and development is done in coordination with the “The Meewasin Valley Project: 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan” developed in 1978 by architectural planner Raymond Moriyama.

Development is about supporting the pillars of conservation and education, challenging existing policies for development while combining and approaching design that is place-making yet minimises the impact on the land and is harmonious with the landscape.

Educate

Meewasin runs various education programs to teach both residents and visitors about the ecological and historical value of the Meewasin Valley. Education programs for Grade 5 are run at Beaver Creek Conservation Area and Grade 3 at the Meewasin Northeast Swale. Interpretive panels along the Meewasin Trail and at conservation sites serve to interpret the sites and alert visitors to nearby features such as historic trails, wildflower identification, or help in spotting wildlife!

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Envirotec Planting Day with Meewasin

Stewardship

Meewasin works with volunteers to protect, enhance, restore, and beautify the valley. Volunteers complement the work of the City of Saskatoon and Meewasin crews.

These volunteer “Stewards” help maintain sections of the riverbank, planting trees, wildflowers and grasses from the Meewasin nursery. They help Meewasin staff collect seeds from native plants, provide garbage clean up every spring and mulch wood chip trails.



Beaver Creek Conservation Area (Stephen Kent)

Beaver Creek Conservation Area (BCCA)

Beaver Creek is a unique site where chickadees will land in your open hand! This place is a smaller version of the Meewasin Valley with native grasslands, forest, sand dunes, the South Saskatchewan River and its tributary Brightwater Creek. Visitors can explore a variety of nature trails and visit the Education Centre, where friendly staff provide guidance and various types of programming.

BCCA is a four-season destination, ideal for hiking!

Beaver Creek is located 13 km south of Saskatoon on Highway #219. For more information call 306-374-2474 or visit meewasin.com.

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Canoe Tours from Beaver Creek Conservation Area

Meewasin Educational Canoe Tours

For an exceptional river valley experience, explore the South Saskatchewan River in a canoe. Meewasin offers canoe tours in a ten-passenger voyageur canoe **when funding is available.**

Canoe tours run from May to the end of August from Beaver Creek Conservation Area. Group charters are available. Non-profit youth groups may be eligible for free charter tours thanks to annual sponsorship from ASUPCA and other organizations. **All canoe tours require pre-registration; please call 306-665-6887.**



Group Programs by Request

Meewasin Northeast Swale and Beaver Creek Conservation Area are pleased to offer a variety of interesting programs to groups upon request, including children's programs, presentations, heritage walking tours, nature hikes, canoe tours, and valley-wide bus tours.

Whether you are planning a convention, reunion or even a small family gathering, we can tailor a program to your needs. Please contact us for program details and pricing.

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Take a boat ride on the Prairie Lily and catch a view of the Remai Modern (Tourism Saskatoon 2017)

Exercise Your Options!

The Meewasin Valley offers a wide variety of options for outdoor exploration and exercise. If you're up for more than a casual stroll, consider paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, boating, running, biking, rollerblading or walking your dog at one of two river front dog parks in the valley. Get your heart pumping in wintertime with cross country skiing, snowshoeing, tobogganing and skating.

If you don't have the appropriate gear, don't worry – many local businesses and clubs rent or sell the equipment you are looking for.

Explore the Meewasin Valley

Within and outside of the City of Saskatoon there are sites and services to help you make the most of your day. Explore the expansive riverbank, discover the many museums and cultural sites, and take advantage of enhancements such as parks and canoe launches along the river. The Meewasin Trail is a must-see attraction that runs along both sides of the



river, winding under the bridges, and through beautifully landscaped parks and natural areas like the Meewasin Northeast Swale. Residents and visitors flock to the trail to cycle, jog, stroll or simply gaze at the scenery.

Exploring the Meewasin Valley is easy! Access points to the trail are found throughout the city, with maps and interpretive signage along the route. **Or check out our online map at meewasin.com/map**

The Great Trail (Trans Canada Trail)

The Great Trail is the longest recreational trail in the world! More than 50 km of the Meewasin Trail are designated as part of the Great Trail (GT). The GT starts in the northwest at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and follows the west bank of the river to the Traffic Bridge crossing the river and continuing along Saskatchewan Crescent to Gabriel Dumont Park then south of the city along the east river bank to Chief Whitecap Park*.

(*300m of this trail is not accessible - between Gabriel Dumont Park and Chief Whitecap Park)

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*Trans Canada Trail
Sentier Transcanadien*



Meewasin uses sheep for targeted conservation grazing!



Crocuses at Peggy McKercher Conservation Area

East Bank Sites North to South

1 Peggy McKercher Conservation Area



Homestead records reveal that the first owner of this property, John Vance, abandoned his claim in 1906 because it was too stoney and the river took up too much space. Since then, the land has been owned by numerous families and later by the Episcopal Corporation of Saskatoon, which converted the site to a summer residence for Catholic nuns, called "Maryville." Meewasin purchased 22.88 acres in 2007 with plans to remediate the site and link it to the Meewasin Trail. When complete, the Peggy McKercher Conservation Area, named in honour of Meewasin's first Board Chair, will be used to promote conservation and stewardship to schools and other groups. Contact Meewasin for more information 306-665-6887.

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Sharp-tailed Grouse (May Hage)

2

The Meewasin Northeast Swale (Swale)



This exciting place is found in the northeast of the city. The Swale covers 2800 ha and almost 10% of it is within city limits. It is an ancient river channel, a result of retreating glaciers. Today the site provides significant ecological services as a diverse, connected network of rare native prairie, riparian area and wetlands! It is home to several rare or endangered plant and animal species. Signs of human habitation, include the Moose Woods-Batoche Trail, the telegraph line that linked North America to Europe via Russia, and lime kilns and quarries used for harvesting the limestone for the University of Saskatchewan iconic buildings.

Come for a stroll along the trail network within the site.

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Meewasin Summer Students
Bird Banding - Swale Bioblitz



3

Crocus Prairie



Located north of Sutherland Beach off Central Avenue, Crocus Prairie, informally named for the beautiful native crocuses found there, is a very ecologically sensitive site. The parking lot off Central Avenue marks a trailhead that meanders south along the top of the riverbank towards Sutherland Beach. Please respect the land and refrain from picking wildflowers.

North of Crocus Prairie is Peturrson's Ravine. Restored after many years of pollution and abuse, this unique bog is now an environmental success story.

Peturrson's Ravine is on private land and is not open to the public.

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4 Saskatoon Natural Grasslands (SNG)



Located on Konihowski Road, SNG is a unique urban park that shelters nearly 200 species of plants and a variety of native birds and animals. The site is also home to more than 25 kinds of butterflies. Take a walk and let us know if you see something interesting!!

5 Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo



Located next to one of the many backshore links that connects the City to the Meewasin Trail, this



Butterfly Garden - Forestry Farm (City of Saskatoon/Tourism Saskatoon)

is a wonderful place to stroll under towering trees, through gardens and alongside ponds while learning local history. The **Forestry Farm Park** (formerly Sutherland Forest Nursery Station) is a designated National Historic Site. From 1913 to 1965 nearly 147 million trees were grown here and shipped to farms in western Canada to be used for shelterbelts. The Friends of the Forestry Farm House (306-249-1315) give tours of the former Superintendent's Residence and grounds. The **Saskatoon Zoo** welcomes more than 200,000 visitors every year to learn about indigenous plants and animals, and see exotic animals from similar climates. It is open year-round (free admission in winter months). Call 306-975-3382.



Sutherland Beach (Verity Moore-Wright)

6 Sutherland Beach



Sutherland Beach has beautifully forested hiking and ski trails that wind their way along the South Saskatchewan River. Your furry friends are welcome to roam free in the dedicated dog park. Road access to the parking lot is from Central Avenue just north of Attridge Drive.



University of Saskatchewan Sculpture Garden (2016 Tourism
Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

7 University of Saskatchewan, The Little Stone School House and Diefenbaker Canada Centre



The University of Saskatchewan, with its many greystone buildings, is a great place to explore. The **Little Stone Schoolhouse**, originally located at Broadway Avenue and 12th Street, was built in 1887 to house Victoria School. Thanks to heritage-minded

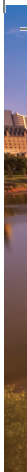
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folk, including the Golden West Chapter of the I.O.D.E. and former secretary to the school board, W.P. Bate, the building was moved stone by stone to its current home on campus near College Drive.

Further along the Meewasin Trail, you will find the **Diefenbaker Canada Centre**, the only combined Prime Ministerial archives, museum and research centre in Canada. The Centre features cultural, educational, and historical collections that represent the life and times of Canada's 13th Prime Minister, John G. Diefenbaker. John and his second wife, Olive, are buried on the grounds near the museum. Phone 306-966-8384.

Canadian Light Source (CLS) is Canada's facility for synchrotron light research. Discoveries here help to design new drugs, build more powerful computer chips, and help with clean-up of mining wastes. Nearby **Innovation Place** is one of the most rapidly growing and successful university-related research parks in North America.

The Meewasin Trail between the University and the river reveals a number of interesting view points including the **sculpture garden** (picture previous page) and the **Varsity Ski Jump**. The ski jump was built in 1931 on the east bank near the weir. It was removed in 1978 but you can still spot the site.





Cosmopolitan Park (Tourism Saskatoon)

8 Cosmopolitan Park and Lookout



Cosmopolitan Park and Lookout is one of the best bird watching sites in Saskatoon. During spring and fall migration, songbirds fill the area. Nesting birds take shelter in the understory of shrubs. In the winter time, you might even spot golden-eye or bufflehead ducks. In the evening, watch for beavers and muskrats along the river banks. The park has benches, a paved upper trail and a wood-chipped lower trail (for hikers only). Signage at the lookout shows the development of the city's downtown area from original settlers' tents all the way to skyscrapers. The Pioneer Memorial Cairn is also located here, near the Broadway Bridge.

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Yoga in Rotary Park (2016 Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

9 Rotary Park and Lookout



Rotary Park offers picnic tables and washroom facilities, and is well known for its public tennis courts. In wintertime, toboggans and snowboarders take advantage of the landscape. Be sure to stop at the Peace Prayer Pole, custom designed by artist Doug Bentham and inscribed with the words “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in four languages, Cree, English, French, and Japanese. Peace Prayer Poles are part of an international network supported by the United Nations to encourage world peace; more than 160 countries honour the tradition.



10 The Marr Residence



Located at 326 11th Street East, the Marr Residence is the oldest house in Saskatoon on its original location. Built in 1884 for Alexander (Sandy) Marr, the home was commandeered as a field hospital during the 1885 North-West Resistance. The Marr Residence is a treasured heritage site and is open for programs and visits on Sundays during the summer. Call 306-652-1201 for details, or to book a tour.



Gabriel Dumont Park (Nola Stein)

11 Gabriel Dumont Park



Gabriel Dumont Park is named for one of the Métis leaders of the North-West Resistance of 1885 and offers a panoramic view of the magnificent South Saskatchewan River. The park, once a concrete waste site, is now restored to a natural state. The park has something for everyone with a children's play village, picnic tables, washroom facilities and it is an urban magnet for migrating warblers. The parking lot is accessible via Saskatchewan Crescent West. The Meewasin Trail entrance is off 8th Street and Saskatchewan Crescent.



Period Costume (Western Development Museum)

12 Western Development Museum (WDM)



Have your photo taken in 1910 period costume, catch an ingenious horse thief on Boomtown Street, take a horse-drawn wagon or sleigh ride, enjoy Saskatoon's best home-cooked meals and desserts, and marvel at Saskatchewan's innovative spirit. With so much to see and do, you'll need to come back again and again!

The WDM - where everyone belongs and histories matter, is located at 2610 Lorne Avenue.

For admission, hours and event schedules call 306-931-1910 or visit wdm.ca.





Rib Fest Diefenbaker Park (Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

13 Diefenbaker Park and The Pioneer Cemetery



Come to Diefenbaker Park to enjoy nature, picnic, barbeque, and attend exciting events including the extremely popular Canada Day fireworks! In winter, Diefenbaker Hill becomes one of the city's best tobogganing sites. Do not miss the city's first cemetery, the historic Pioneer Cemetery, which is located adjacent to the park and is the final resting place of a number of the city's first residents.



Factoria (Nola Stein)

West Bank Sites North to South

14 Factoria Site



Factoria, located in the neighbourhood of Silverwood, is the site of Saskatoon's early industrial dreams. Chicago entrepreneur, Robert Glass, founded Factoria in 1912 when he purchased the Silverwood Springs Saskatoon Bottling Plant from William Silverwood. Glass' dream to turn the plant into a brewery and the surrounding land into an "Industrial City" was crushed by the economic slowdown caused by World War I. All that remains of Factoria are some crumbling concrete foundations. Take a break here at one of Meewasin's many seating nodes along the Meewasin Trail and enjoy the majestic view of the beautiful Meewasin Valley.



15 Meewasin Park



Located in the city's north-west, Meewasin Park features a playground, barbeque pits, picnic tables, a groomed cross country ski trail (in winter), a warm-up shelter with washroom facilities open year-round and a canoe launch for heading down river. The parking lot is accessible from Spadina Crescent.



Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @Nutrien Plaza in Kiwanis Park
(Tourism Saskatoon)

16 Capilano Lookout



Located in Meewasin Park on Capilano Drive, this lookout provides a beautiful view of both banks of the river and, in the distance, the city skyline. Signage here tells the history of the valley and the city's relationship to the river.

17 G.D. Archibald Park



This is a great place to watch a soccer match or baseball game in summertime. The park is the site of the Richmond Heights Kinsmen Playground which offers a wading pool and playground.



18 Meewasin Riverworks (Weir)

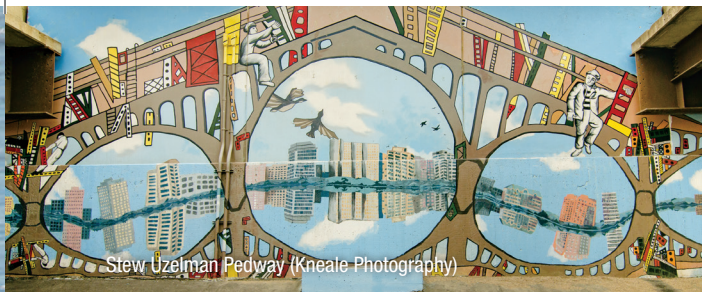


The Weir was built as a relief project during the Great Depression. It was designed by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration to raise water levels in Saskatoon to create a water reservoir. Today, it is the annual fishing site of the American White Pelican, a good news conservation story. Meewasin hosts a contest every spring to guess the Pelican's return date.

Every year this once-endangered species returns to the Weir and stays until early autumn. People love to watch the graceful birds soar in the sky and float along the water, occasionally dipping their heads in the water to feed on fish. If you wish, climb the stairs to the top of the train bridge for a bird's-eye view.



Pelicans at Meewasin Riverworks (Weir) (Karen Edwards)



Stew Uzelman Pedway (Kneale Photography)

The landscape and architectural features near the Weir are part of the Meewasin Riverworks (Weir) Redevelopment, which began as a Canadian Millennium Partnership Program. Stroll the Cameco Kilometre, the Realty Executives Boardwalk, the Kinsmen Fishing Platform and the Prince of Wales Promenade, which in April 2001, was dedicated by His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales. Nighttime visits to the Weir are illuminated by the Credit Union Light Tower.

19 Mendel Riverbank and Island Sanctuary



The Mendel Riverbank Island Sanctuary offers a quiet place to relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of the South Saskatchewan River. During summer, beavers, ducks, and pelicans can often be spotted from the lookout point and ferry dock. In July and August, this site is home to a massive red and white tent featuring the annual theatre event, Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan. Also, make sure to book a trip down the river on the Prairie Lily riverboat which docks at this location.

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Nutrien Playland at Kinsmen Park
(Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

20 Kinsmen Park



Located at Spadina Crescent and 25th Street, it is well known for its children's amusement park with its ferris wheel and train ride. The park features a playground and large paddling pool, picnic tables, barbecue pits and, in the wintertime, a cross country ski trail.

21 The Ukrainian Museum of Canada



The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, located at 910 Spadina Crescent East, is dedicated to the Ukrainian settlers who contributed in such large measure to the country's development. Craftwork on display includes embroidered fabrics, wood carvings, traditional religious



Kiwanis Memorial Park (Tourism Saskatoon)

items (such as decorated Easter eggs), and ceramics. Phone 306-244-3800 for hours of operation.

22 Kiwanis Memorial Park



Kiwanis Memorial Park in downtown Saskatoon is a tribute to Saskatoon's war veterans. The Vimy Memorial bandshell, south of the Bessborough Hotel, honours veterans from World War I. A large water fountain, north of the hotel, honours the men who fought in World War II. The park has picnic tables, barbeque pits and, in wintertime, the **Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ Nutrien Plaza**. Every winter, more than 30,000 skaters lace up and hit the ice, accompanied by music and glowing holiday lights. Skates and skating are free of charge! Due to its popularity, no hockey is allowed.

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23 Friendship Park



This park has several tables for picnicking and is graced with a lifesize bronze sculpture of Métis folk hero, Gabriel Dumont, sitting on his horse. Often the site of many festivals and gatherings throughout the summer months.

24 Meewasin Valley Centre

The Meewasin Valley Authority administrative offices are located in downtown Saskatoon at 402 Third Avenue South. The business offices are open Monday to Friday 8:15 - 16:30; closed noon hours, weekends and holidays. Visit meewasin.com or call 306-665-6887.



River Landing Water Feature (Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

25 River Landing, Remai Modern, and The Farmers' Market



River Landing is a focal point for the city, a unique combination of meeting place, performance site, and recreation area. Features include an outdoor amphitheatre, pedestrian links, children's water play area, and a river walk with stunning up-close views of the water. In summertime, food and treats are available at the pavilion. **Remai Modern** is a museum of modern and contemporary art in Saskatoon, offering a unique perspective on art and culture in the 21st century, with an eye on the future. Walk west over the colourful footbridge and under the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge to discover

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Skiing in the Meewasin Valley (Tourism Saskatoon)

the **Saskatoon Farmers' Market**, where vendors make, bake, gather, and grow what they sell. The Market Square Restaurants are open 6 days a week. Adjacent to the Market is Ideas Inc., Saskatoon's first incubator which provides office/retail space, business coaching and mentorship to aspiring entrepreneurs.

26 Victoria Park and The Boathouse



Victoria Park and The Boathouse are accessible from Avenue H South. Victoria Park features a playground, picnic tables, and a popular skateboard park. It is also home to the Riversdale Pool (public swimming), the Saskatoon Badminton Club, the Saskatoon Canoe Club, the Saskatoon Rowing Club, and the Gardener's Residence.



South Saskatchewan River (Tourism Saskatoon/Greg Huszar Photography)

27 Bowerman House



Bowerman House, a municipal heritage site, was built in 1907 by one of Saskatoon's most prominent early citizens, Allan Bowerman. He was the city's first postmaster, a member of the first town council and he built the premiere boom-time office building, the Canada Building. After 1925, the Bowerman House was used as the residence for the Sanatorium superintendent, Dr. Boughton, who introduced tuberculosis surveys into Saskatchewan. Today the house is a private residence.

28 Sanatorium Site



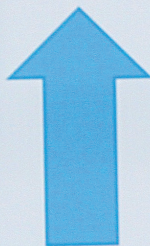
This is the former site of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium opened by the Saskatchewan Anti-Tuberculosis League in 1925. The last patient was discharged in 1978, and the building was torn down in 1989. The site is great for trail biking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing and picnicking.

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WINTER TRIATHLON

RUN



Triathlon in the Meewasin Valley
(Tourism Saskatoon)



Fat tire biking in the Meewasin Valley
(Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

29 Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area



This afforestation project was initiated in 1972 to act as a greenbelt for the city, providing a semi-natural environment and habitat for wildlife. In 1978 City administrative staff recommended the site be officially named the *Richard St. Barbe Baker Park (Urban Regional Park)*. City Council adopted the naming in January of 1979, and the site officially became known as the Richard St. Barbe Baker Park to honour Richard St. Barbe Baker, a.k.a. the “Man of the Trees.” St. Barbe Baker was responsible for planting an estimated 26 billion trees in more than 100 countries. More recently the site is now home to all season fat tire biking trails - Fatlanders Fat Tire Brigade.

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Wanuskewin Heritage Park (Tourism Saskatchewan/Concepts Photography)

Rural Municipality of Corman Park

North to South

30 Clark's Crossing (East)



Clark's Crossing and the nearby town site of Clarkboro were named for homesteader John Fowler Clark. This was one of the original places of settlement along the river and is a site of great historical merit, serving as the base for Major General Frederick Middleton's army during the North-West Resistance of 1885.

31 Wanuskewin Heritage Park (East)



Wanuskewin (Wah-nus-KAY-win) Heritage Park sits above Opimihaw Creek and the South Saskatchewan



Wanuskewin Heritage Park (Tourism Saskatoon/Nick Biblow)

River – a window into Canada’s history that remains largely undiscovered, and a link to our past unlike any other National Historic Site in Canada. The Park is currently on **Canada’s Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. This is Canada’s longest running archaeological site. Scientists and students are discovering artifacts dating back as far as 6,400 years. Wanuskewin is open year-round offering interpretive programs, art galleries, guided walks and traditional dance performances. The vast site has more than 6 km of trails that wind throughout the park, an interpretive centre, a restaurant serving Indigenous cuisine, and a gift shop with items from local Indigenous artists. Wanuskewin Heritage Park is 5 km north of Saskatoon. Take Wanuskewin Road to Penner Road, turn right (east) and follow the signs. **For information: wanuskewin.com or 306-931-6767.**

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Upland Sandpiper (May Haga)

32 Chappell Marsh Conservation Area (West)



Chappell Marsh Conservation Area, adjacent to Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation Area, is a protected wetland habitat that provides safe breeding grounds and nesting sites for waterfowl. **This is not a fat tire biking site.**

33 Yorath Island



Yorath Island is named for one of Saskatoon's early city commissioners, Christopher J. Yorath. This 151 acre island did not exist when the land was first surveyed



Wildlife along the Meewasin Trail (Kneale Photography)

in 1903, but formed later when a channel of water cut through the riverbank. A small section of Maple Grove was isolated by the water channel and forms part of the island. The island supports a wild mix of shrubbery and wildlife including the Cooper's Hawk, coyotes, red fox, river otter, porcupine, beaver, and deer. It is also one of the northernmost examples of a cottonwood forest in North America. There is no access to the island, but it can be observed from Maple Grove. *The site is owned by Ducks Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy of Canada holds a conservation easement on the land.*

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Meewasin crew and volunteers performing a prescribed burn

34 **Maple Grove** (West)



In the 1960s, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Egnatoff developed this land into an amusement park, complete with ferris wheel, trampolines, mini golf, playground, train, playfields, picnic facilities, dance hall, campsite and, eventually, a permanent mobile trailer park. “Leisureland,” as it was formerly known, was active for 20 years. Today it is a private residential site, please be respectful.



35 Wilson Island



Wilson Island was, from 1943 to 1951, the site of a Sea Cadet training camp. Sea Cadets were transported to the island (then called “Shepley Island”) by a current-driven scow for two-weeks of training that included swimming and rowing. The island can be seen from the lookout point at Cranberry Flats.

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Jane's Walk Meewasin Northeast Swale (Branimir Ghetvaj)

36 Poplar Bluffs Canoe Launch (West)



Poplar Bluffs Canoe Launch is a great place to begin a leisurely 3-hour paddle to Saskatoon. As you head downstream, be sure to watch for birds, animals and other natural wonders. To reach the launch site, leave the city by Valley Road and continue 9.8 km to the sign for the Poplar Bluffs Conservation Area. Turn left (head east) and follow the grid road 1.6 km to the parking lot. The portage from the parking lot to the launch site is 50 metres. Vehicles may remain in the parking lot from sunrise to sunset.



Paradise Beach

37 Paradise Beach (West)



Paradise Beach is a place to sunbathe. Leave the city by Valley Road and continue 3.2 km past the Berry Barn. Just past a tree farm, turn left (head south) onto a grid road (Range Road 3063) and continue for another 3.2 km. The parking lot entrance is marked with a sign and some boulders. If the road curves right, you've gone too far. Vehicles may remain in the parking lot from sunrise to sunset. After sunset, cars will be ticketed. *Please remember that swimming in the river is not advised.*

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Chief Whitecap Park (Lennox Saunders)

38 Chief Whitecap Park (East)



Chief Whitecap Park is named after the former leader of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. Chief Whitecap guided the early Temperance Colonists to select a settlement site, which has since developed into the City of Saskatoon. This park, a former rifle range operated by the Department of National Defence, offers scenic hiking trails, a large dedicated dog park area and beautiful views of the South Saskatchewan River. To reach the park either take Lorne Avenue (Highway #219) and follow Cartwright Road to the park; alternatively, take Clarence Avenue, or Highway #11 south to Grasswood Road, and travel west (right) towards the river.

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Trail Running at Cranberry Flats (Peter Goode)

39 Cranberry Flats Conservation Area (East)



Cranberry Flats Conservation Area is a scenic area with large sandy beaches and a wheelchair accessible trail leading to a valley lookout. It is a popular spot for families. Dogs are allowed, but owners will be fined \$100 for allowing them off leash. Cranberry Flats is open sunrise to sunset. Enjoy the sun and sand, but be warned that there is a \$500 fine for being on-site after hours. To reach the site, depart the city by Lorne Avenue (Highway #219). Turn right onto Grasswood Road. At the first intersection, turn left onto Road 3055 (Strathcona Ave.) The Cranberry Flats parking lot is about 2.75 km on the right. For more information, call 306-665-6887.

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Beaver Creek - Chickadees feeding

40

Beaver Creek Conservation Area and Education Centre (East)



Beaver Creek Conservation Area, with its sheltered creek, river valley, and prairie habitat, is truly a microcosm of the Meewasin Valley with four gorgeous nature trails easily explored in any season. To reach Beaver Creek take Lorne Avenue (Highway #219) south of Saskatoon. After about 13 km, you will see a sign reading "Beaver Creek East turn here". Instead, continue 1 km more to a sign on the right reading "Beaver Creek Conservation Area." Turn right (west) and follow the road to the parking lot. For more information - meewasin.com or 306-374-2474.



Paddling on the South Saskatchewan (Kneale Photography)

41 The Fred Heal Canoe Launch (East)



The Fred Heal Canoe Launch is the starting point for a scenic 20.5 km (5-hour) paddle to Saskatoon. You will be amazed at the bird, animal and plant life found along the way. To reach the canoe launch, go south of Saskatoon on Lorne Avenue (Highway #219). Travel 0.5 km past Beaver Creek Conservation Area and turn right (head west) on Road 350-A. Proceed 2.5 km to the bottom of a hill. Turn right (west) and proceed 1 km to the launch site. There is a 50 metre portage from the parking lot to the launch site. The site is open sunrise to sunset.

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Paddleboarding on the South Saskatchewan River
(Tourism Saskatoon/Concepts Photography)

- **Meewasin Valley Centre
(Administrative Offices)**

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Phone: 306-665-6887
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- **Beaver Creek
Conservation Area**

Follow Lorne Avenue (Highway
#219) south 13 km. The site is
on the right (west) side of the road.
Phone: 306-374-2474



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